



## Choose the Right Seat!

Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death for young children. A minor crash or even a sudden stop can seriously injure a child who is not riding in the right type of child safety seat.

**You can reduce the risk by having your child always ride in a properly fastened and secured safety seat.**

**USE THIS CHART AS A GENERAL GUIDE TO WHAT SAFETY SEAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD RIDE IN. SEE SEAT AND VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS' INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETAILS.**

	WEIGHT/ HEIGHT	TYPE OF SEAT
<b>INFANTS</b> Birth to a minimum of 1 year	Up to 20-22 lbs. or maximum weight limit of the seat	Infant seat or rear-facing convertible
<b>TODDLERS</b> 1 to 4 years	20-40 lbs. or maximum weight limit of the seat	Convertible or forward-facing
<b>YOUNG CHILDREN</b> 5 to 7 years	41 lbs. to 57"	Belt positioning booster seat
<b>CHILD</b> 8 to 12 years	Greater than 57"	Seat belt

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# EOPSS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

[www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats](http://www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats)

Deval L. Patrick, *Governor*  
Timothy P. Murray, *Lt. Governor*  
Kevin M. Burke, *Secretary  
of Public Safety and Security*



## WHEN IS A CHILD BIG ENOUGH TO WEAR AN ADULT SAFETY BELT?

1. Tall enough to sit without slouching, by Massachusetts law over 57"
2. Shoulder belt rests comfortably across the shoulder and chest, not the neck or throat
3. Lap belt fits securely, low and snug on hips
4. Sits with back and buttocks against seat
5. Knees completely bend over edge of seat
6. Feet are flat on the floor
7. Stays comfortably seated this way

## DON'T SKIP A STEP— GIVE SAFETY A BOOST

Booster seats put children in the proper position to safely use adult safety belts, and are required by law until children are 8 years old **OR** over 57" tall. *Please see chart on front of card for guidance.*

- Children 12 and under should always ride in the back seat. Follow vehicle manufacturers' warnings about seating of children near airbags.
- **IMPORTANT:** Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an airbag.
- Never place a shoulder belt behind the back or under the arm.
- Set a good example—70% of children whose parents do not buckle up will not buckle up when they become adults. Wear your safety belt every time! Massachusetts law requires everyone to buckle up.
- Any object in a vehicle can become a projectile in a crash. Use a trunk or cargo area to properly store loose items.
- Learn to properly use your child's safety seat by reviewing the seat and vehicle manufacturers' instructions. If you still need assistance, find a Child Passenger Safety Technician at [www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats](http://www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats) or call 1-877-392-5956 or TTY 1-617-725-0261.

## SUMMARY – MASSACHUSETTS CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW (as of 7/10/08)

- Children must be in a federally approved child passenger restraint that is properly fastened and secured until they are 8 years old **OR** over 57" tall.
- Children ages 8 through 12 must wear a properly fastened safety belt.
- A police officer can stop your vehicle if a child age 12 or under is not properly restrained.